

The Green-Cook House  
Whippany\*, Hanover Township  
Morris County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-639

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.H.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

HABS

N.J.

14-WHIP.P.V.

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The Green-Cook House  
Whippany\*, Hanover Township  
Morris County, New Jersey

Owner: (and occupant) Joseph Giblock

Dates of Erection: About 1791, with alterations  
and additions about 1830

Architect:

Builders: Benjamin Green Jr. (1766-1803) and Ralph  
B. Cook (1808-1875), or William Green

Present Condition: Original, as rebuilt about 1830

Number of Stories: One and one-half, and part cellar

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - stone masonry

Exterior walls - timber frame, clapboarded

Interior walls - lath and plaster on studding

Chimneys - brick

Roof - gable, covered with modern rubberoid  
shingling

Historical Data:

The identification of this house by discovery of the name of its first owner is possible by search of title through successive owners to the present as found in the County records and is reported as follows:

By deed of 31 March 1830, the heirs sold to Samuel Cook of Hanover Township for \$720 the 18 acre

\*The house stands on the south side of State Highway No. 10, at the east, or Ball's Mills, end of the Village of Whippany.

"homestead farm of Benjamin Green deceased" (a) describing the tract as bounded east by lands of Linus Condit and Samuel Cook, north by those of Jacob Green deceased, west by other lands of said Green deceased, and of Moses Condit, and south by the mill pond of said Linus Condit and Jacob Gray, deceased.

(a) Benjamin Green Jr., b. 3 Jan. 1766; d. 30 Aug. 1803 in Hanover Twp. of yellow fever; gravestone in Presb. Chyd. at Hanover; mar. 10 Aug. 1791 Sarah Ely who d. 21 Apr. 1827 aged 57-6-15, and had issue: William of Hanover Twp.; John Newton bp. 1792, of N.Y.C.; Lucy bp. 1794, wife of Caleb Perry of Newark; Eliza bp. 18 May 1799, wife of Stephen Paret of N.Y.C. Albert bp. 14 June 1801, and Susan bp. 24 Apr. 1803, wife of Michael Ritter of Cortland, N.Y.; all of whom (except Albert) were grantors in the deed of 31 March 1830 abovesaid. One Benjamin Green, possibly the subject hereof, and Pruden Alling advertised 3 Apr. 1798 the Hanover stage coach to run from William Parrot's to Jersey City via Orange and Newark. Since this house of Benjamin Green was not sold until 27 yrs. after his death and only 3 after that of his widow, it appears that she continued residence therein having survived him 24 yrs. He was 8th of the 10 chldrn. of Deacon Benjamin Green who was b. 2 Feb. 1723/4 in Malden, Mass., and d. 29 July, 1796, in Hanover Twp., Morris Co., N.J., having mar. 18 Jan. 1750 in the latter place Mary Dalglish who d. 1 Aug. 1777 in 49th year. The deacon was a brother of the Rev. Jacob Green, pastor of the Presb. Ch. of Hanover 1746-1790 (q.v. in Proc. N.J. Hist. Soc. 2d Ser. XII, 191-241).

References: "Inscriptions on the Tomb Stones in the Graveyards at Whippany and Hanover, Morris Co., N.J.", publ. 1894. Records of Hanover Presb. Ch. 1746-1796, publ. 1892; and same 1796-1825 publ. in Genealogy Mag. of N.J., Vol. VI; W. W. Munsell & Co., Hist. of Morris Co., 1882, p. 67.

The grantee, Samuel Cook(b), by his will dated 23 February 1859 and proved 11 January 1862, devised all his real estate to his four sons, Ralph B., Millard, Ira and Timothy Cook, to be equally divided among them.

Subsequently, by their deed of 2 February 1863, three of the brothers last named above conveyed to the fourth, Ralph S. Cook of Newark, New Jersey, for \$2750.16 three tracts of land. The principal one of these is described as being "part of the homestead farm late of Samuel Cook, deceased, called and known as the Green Place", (c) and the boundaries given as beginning in the middle of the wagon road leading from the public road through Whippany to the late dwelling of Samuel Cook, deceased, at a point in said wagon road or driftway south 33 degrees 39 minutes East 16 links distant from a large hollow pin oak tree marked for a line, being at or near the most northeasterly line of the Green Place and also is a corner of part of said homestead farm released to Millard Cook, and runs thence (1) up the old ditch with Millard Cook's lot and Stephen Paulmier's line north 33 degrees 30 minutes west 5.83 to a marked pin oak tree for a corner of Paulmier's land opposite the middle of an outlet ditch between lands of Cook and Paulmier; thence (2) with said Paulmier's line, late of Jacob Gray's, south 51 degrees 20 minutes west 26.97 chains to the middle of the late Newark and Mt. Pleasant Turnpike Road; thence (3) down the middle of said road south 41 deg. 30 min. east 7.94 to the easterly

(b) Samuel Cook d. 30 Dec. 1861 aged 80-3-9; his widow Elizabeth d. 1 Jan. 1874 aged 97, per gravestone inscriptions in Hanover Presby. Chyd. He mar. 1st: Mary Coe who had sons, Alexander, Ralph Burnet and Millard Coddington (all three bapt. 16 Oct. 1812 in Hanover Presb. Ch.), and he mar. 2d: Elizabeth Johnson who had son Timothy, b. in May 1814.

(c) Evidently as having been that of Benjamin Green Jr., first abovenamed owner.

corner of Stephen Paulmier's and Moses Condit's lot; thence (4) with his line south 6 deg. 40 min. east 4.17 to a post at the angle of the fences on the northerly side of E. Wilson's Mill pond; thence (5) with the fence near the edge of the pond and the same course south 44 deg. east 3.11 to a corner on William Agar's, late Condit's, line; thence (6) with his line north 22 degrees east 2.74 to the high swinging gate post on the northerly side of the said turnpike road, opposite the middle of the lane or driftway of Millar Cook; thence (7) down the middle of said driftway with William Agar's land late Linas Condit's north 20 deg. 45 min. east 9.95 to a point at a turn of the line of said lane; thence (8) on said lane with said late Condit's land and the line of millard Cook's land north 43 deg. 20 min. east 17.17 to the place of beginning, containing 21.52 acres. The house itself stands between the turnpike and the mill pond, bounded by the 4th, 5th and 6th courses above given, nearly all of the tract being on the opposite, northeast, side of that road. The second tract conveyed in this deed to Ralph B. Cook, was one of 17.86 acres described likewise as being part of the late homestead farm of Samuel Cook deceased, and the third tract a 4.5 acre division of late Samuel Cook's tract in the Parsippany woods above Littletown.

Ralph Burnet Cook(d), one of the four sons of Samuel Cook, having this in 1863 obtained possession of the house (here considered), which apparently he had occupied since the purchase in 1830, and at the date of his will, 20 June, 1874, devised thereby to his wife, Mary Cook during her lifetime all his estate, and directed his executors to sell any part or all of the same if necessary. The alterations and additions in the style of 1830 made to the house can be ascribed to this Ralph B. Cook. Possibly William Green of Hanover Twp. 1830, a son of Benjamin Green Jr., was responsible for this work. Likely, he resided there with his widowed mother mentioned in note "a".

- (d) Ralph B. Cook d. 5 Sept. 1875 aged 67-4-1; his widow Mary Cook d. 25 Feb. 1885 aged 78-8-13, per gravestone inscriptions in Whippany Presb. cemetery.

Accordingly, by deed of 12 May 1885, William W. Cook of Hanover Township, executor, conveyed to William J. Agar the two lots, "part of the homestead farm late of Samuel Cook, deceased, called and known as the Green Place", described as above, 21.52 and 17.86 acres.

By deed of 30 November 1910, Eleanor M. Agar of Hanover Township, evidently heiress of William Agar the grantee abovesaid, conveyed to the Maze Realty Company of New York tracts of 10 and 173 acres in Hanover, describing them as then "commonly known as the Agar Farm", with the latter of which tracts was included the one here considered. Finally, by deed of 3 May 1915, the said realty company passed title to Joseph Giblock and wife Mary, of Hanover Township, the former of whom survives as owner at the time of our survey of the house.

Bibliography:

A search of title in Land and Probate records of Morris County by James P. Richards, H.A.B.S. abstractor, reported 4 June 1940

Lewis D. Cook  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer

7/1/41